CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

$5.00 a Year

RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

10 Cents Per Copy

Vol. 30, No. 42 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | February 4th, 1939

Royalty Is News!

Who's Crazy, You or Me?

Jeanette MacDonald, Tyrone Power, Monarchs of the Screen!

"Duke of West Point"

"Wings of the Navy"

See "Topper Takes a Trip"!

Bobby Breen, Canadian Star!

PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS!

A prominent exhibitor said:

"Without M-G-M this past year, it would not only have been tough sledding for the average exhibitor, but it would have been nothing short of a calamity."

We announce easy sledding again this year, for M-G-M exhibitors!

Hop on your sleds, boys! "SWEETHEARTS," "STAND UP AND FIGHT" are just samples.

Followed by A MONTH OF SUNDAYS!

Honestly, have you ever in your career as a showman witnessed the like of this:

Four weeks in a row! Look!

NORMA SHEARER, CLARK GABLE in the powerful "IDIOT'S DELIGHT".

"HONOLULU", the Darling of Musicals, starring ELEANOR POWELL, ROBERT YOUNG, GEORGE BURNS, GRACIE ALLEN and Hundreds of Hula Honies.

MICKEY ROONEY, the box-office kid himself in "Adventures of HUCKLEBERRY FINN".

JOAN CRAWFORD in a million dollar role "ICE FOLLIES of 1939" with James Stewart, Lew Ayres, Lewis Stone.

And more easy sledding thereafter!

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Established 1915
Publication: Weekly
Subscription: $5.00 yearly
JAMES LEWIS SMITH
Associate Editor

Digest International Press Film Service syndicating 500 leading newspapers in Canada. U.S.A. and Great Britain.

RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

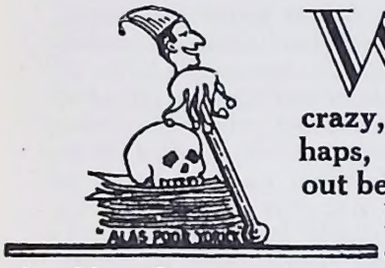
"Easy to Digest"

Published by Canadian Moving Picture Digest Company, Limited
259 Spadina Ave., Toronto
Telephone: WAverley 4929
Cable: Raydigest

Correspondents:
J. J. Conklin, Winnipeg.
Ward Shaftesbury, London.
Alice T. Fairweather, Saint John, N.B.

Vol. 30, No. 42 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | February 4th, 1939

WHO'S CRAZY, YOU OR ME?



WE have been trying to answer this question, "Who's crazy, you or me?". Perhaps, we have not found out because what we should have said was "Who's crazy, you or I?" or should we?

One of us is what might be termed, in impolite language, "crazy".

Let us take certain theatres which are crying for help with which to buy pictures. Imagine any customers of any other kind of a business, placed in the position of being obliged to beg for product which has been made but for one purpose, and that is sales.

Imagine a group of powerful producer-distributors allowing any one exhibitor, whether he represents one theatre or twenty, or a hundred, to tie up their sales in a country from coast to coast until he makes up his mind what he wants; and having made up his mind, he is that kind of a showman who cannot stand competition, revealing that the management of the theatres under his policy cannot be successful unless they have Monopoly and Protection.

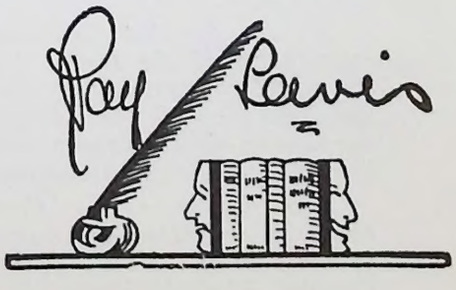
Let us look at the situation in British Columbia. Here is a group of exhibitors who have attempted to meet big buying power by combining their buying power to give the producer-distributors more playdates and more money for product than the distributors can possibly secure by selling to the exhibitors individually.

Two such groups operate in Ontario. Both supported by Mr. N. L. Nathanson, whose personal interests are linked up with both these co-operative groups. But since the British Columbia group is not directly or indirectly under his domination, the producer-distributors let Mr. Nathanson sell them an idea that they should refrain from selling to the B.C. exhibitors, under the excuse that this group is a combine.

At one time the producer-distributors were afraid of the name Schlesinger in South Africa. The country was sewn up tight. Today, that country has opened up for film enterprise, because the producer-distributors at last developed enough intestinal fortitude to build a theatre or two, and to encourage independent exhibitors to build by giving them product.

Take a look at the brain-trust of Paramount, paying a salary to the President of Famous Players Canadian, plus a percentage of profits, plus a bonus of shares to give F-P competition, and to weaken their own position through a President who is using his position and knowledge of their company's resources to serve himself personally. Has it ever occurred to the Paramount brain-trust that this wonderful baby of theirs, the Famous Players Canadian, which saw Paramount through its darkest days, which had no part in the bankruptcy of Paramount but remained an Asset, that it is paying and helping to put itself out of business, or to be taken as Czechoslovakia was taken by Hitler?

Some carry an umbrella for a rainy day, for strategic appeasement, others carry independent film enterprise by way of film franchises, independent theatres, equipment, etc., etc., not overlooking the 16 mm. film for the strategy of coverage. Who's crazy, producer-distributors, you or me? We know it is you, because we live here and we know our man!



RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

DURING the premiership of The Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, certain legislation was enacted in respect to the importation into Canada of Sound Trucks, Motion Picture Cameras designed for the taking of Canadian News Events.

The purpose of the legislation was to enable those engaged in such News Reel Enterprise in Canada to develop this business in Canada, and was in the nature of a protective tariff. Certain other legislation which made it imperative to incorporate fifty percent British news events into the news reels exhibited in Ontario, gave the Canadian Film Enterprises further protection by forcing a sale for the news film which they make. Taking the larger view of News Reels as of educational value, the legislation which made it compulsory to incorporate a substantial percentage of Canadian and other British News into News Reels helped to keep our Screens British at least to some extent, and to this no American company could find reasonable objection, other than that there was a scarcity of British news events.

The recent Canadian-American trade pact reduced the duty on 35 mm. cameras to about fifty percent of its former tariff rate, bringing it down to a fixed charge of ten percent.

This reduction, however, does not apply to other camera equipment and accessories necessary for the taking of Sound News Films; and in view of the approaching visit of Their Majesties to Canada, American News Reel companies are endeavoring to cope with any regulations which may interfere with the taking of pictures during the Royal visit.

THE news reels of the Coronation of Their Majesties were beautifully done, both in colour and in black and white. Some of the "shots" revealed intimate close-up pictures of Royalty which gave a "family" and "friendly" touch to the ceremonious investiture of the Coronation News; and the people of the British Empire and the people of other nations were given an opportunity to witness a great event in history, to become better acquainted with those British traditions and institutions of which every Britisher is proud, and of which the Monarchy of England is the Ruling Symbol.

We consider that the Screen in its humble capacity served the British Empire, spreading the gospel of good-will by the presentation of the Coronation of Their Majesties. It was in our moving picture language most excellent publicity for the British Monarchy.

20th Century-Fox, Paramount, Pathe, Universal and Metro are respectively interested in covering the News of the Royal visit to Canada. Their Majesties will come to Canada in May, disembarking from H.M.S. Repulse, at Quebec, according to the present schedule, on May 15th.

Because this Royal visit is of historical value, because the screen is such a power for service, because of the reciprocal American and Canadian trade treaty, because President Franklin D. Roosevelt is such a loyal and staunch friend of England and of Canada, and primarily because Their Majesties have graciously accepted an invitation from the President and the people of the United States to visit that friendly country, some modifications should be made in respect to present film-taking restrictions. Some arrangement should be arrived at between the Canadian Government's Bureau for film-taking, Canadian private film enterprises and American film companies, the main purpose to see that all rights be considered, but that the very best pictures should be taken.

IT would be a grave error to exclude any company from taking pictures of the Royal visit in order to give this privilege exclusivelyy to any Canadian enterprise, private or under the jurisdiction of the Government, if the Canadian film enterprise cannot produce the quality which the Americans produce in their News Reels.

Their Majesties are coming to Canada not without great sacrifice. Those of us who know how to think clearly, know how much such a Royal visit may mean. We can help to fulfill that purpose by emulating Their Majesties, who are not only coming to Canada, but who are to visit the United States.

THEIR Majesties are showing us the way. Providing the presentation of the Royal visit on the screens is accompanied by narrative which measures up to the dignity which must govern such a presentation, our Government should give the American cameramen and News Reel companies every co-operation to take and make the finest quality of News Reels of the Canadian visit of Their Majesties; and in return the American Government can extend the same facilities of co-operation to our Canadian cameramen when they go to the United States to record for our News Reel pictures Their Majesties' visit to the United States.

An arrangement may be made whereby the American News Reels incorporate part of the scenes into their own News Reels which are taken by Canadian News Reel companies, providing, of course, that our Canadian News Reels measure up to the standard of quality required.

And, incidentally, when the Royal visit News Reels are ready for distribution let all theatres have an opportunity to show them.

Digest Reviews and Previews

RESUME OF PICTURES REVIEWED DURING JANUARY

★ ★ ★

"OUT WEST WITH THE HARDYS"—Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Starring Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Cecilia Parker and Fay Holden, with Virginia Weidler and Ralph Morgan. Directed by George B. Seitz.

"More drama and human interest than 'Love Finds Andy Hardy' . . . . lends itself even more easily to exploitation than the previous Hardy pictures . . . box-office success is assured."

"THERE'S THAT WOMAN AGAIN"—Columbia.

Starring Melvyn Douglas and Virginia Bruce, with Margaret Lindsay. Directed by Alexander Hall.

"Advertise this as a comedy, as a mystery-thriller, or as both, and you should be headed for happy days at the box-office."

"SPRING MADNESS" — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Starring Lew Ayres and Maureen O'Sullivan, with Burgess Meredith. Directed by S. Sylvan Simon.

"Drastic departure from the usual type of college romance films . . . Outstanding feature is the work of Maureen O'Sullivan and Burgess Meredith, neither of whom have ever shown to better advantage on the screen."

"THE GREAT MAN VOTES"—RKO Radio.

Starring John Barrymore, with Virginia Weidler and Peter Holden. Directed by Garson Kanin.

"Not a million dollar production so far as cost is concerned, this picture is the type that will build with word-of-mouth advertising, until it reaches major proportions at the box-office."

"THE YOUNG IN HEART" — Selznick-U.A.

Starring Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Janet Gaynor and Paulette Goddard, with Roland Young, Billie Burke, Minnie Dupree and Richard Carlson. Directed by Richard Wallace.

"A delightfully humorous tale, containing an abundance of whimsical humour, and a goodly portion of human interest. It is DIFFERENT, and therein lies the film's greatest asset."

"THEY MADE ME A CRIMINAL" — Warner Brothers.

Starring John Garfield, with Gloria Dickson and the "Dead End" Kids. Directed by Busby Berkeley.

"An intensely dramatic story, well written, well acted and well directed, with Garfield giving an even better performance than in 'Four Daughters'."

"THE SHINING HOUR"—Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Starring Joan Crawford, Margaret Sullavan, Melvyn Douglas, Robert Young and Fay Bainter. Directed by Frank Borzage.

"A very sophisticated drama dealing with lives and emotions in the upper strata of society. Production value and photography excellent."

★ ★

"SUBMARINE PATROL"— 20th Century-Fox.

Starring Richard Greene and Nancy Kelly. Directed by John Ford.

"No colorful parades, no precision marching of formations, and no bevies of beautiful girls, but plenty of action aboard the little tubs whose job it was to convoy freighters through the war zones, and to clear the seas of the German U-boats."

PERSONAL MUSINGS

THAT was a smart tie-up Jack Arthur, of the Uptown, Toronto, arranged with the Kellog Co. of Canada on "Dawn Patrol". Members of the "Howey Wing" Cadet Corps., sponsored by the Kellog Co.'s radio programme, received special admission privileges to the Uptown, on the presentation of their "wings" or "buttons".

In co-operation with the Children's Aid Society and township police, Harry Atkins, manager of the Kirkland Theatres Ltd., announced that in the future no children will be admitted to the Uptown, Strand or Capitol Theatres between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., and that after the last-mentioned hour, children will only be admitted if accompanied by an adult, and the adult must be seated with the child for whom a ticket has been purchased. This move was in response to the request of several parents to the Children's Aid Society to see if something couldn't be done to keep public school and high school children out of theatres when they should be home. Many families have worried at the absence of a son or daughter and found them sitting through a second performance of a favorite movie. Mr. Atkins, in a statement to the press, made it plain that any breach of this rule by an employee meant instant dismissal.

A. G. Lawrence was elected President of the Winnipeg Cine Club at the annual meeting recently. Dr. C. H. Goulden was chosen Vice-President, and W. R. Lawson, Secretary-Treasurer.

Arthur E. Lee and Oscar R. Hanson left this week for California.

Lowell Thomas, popular radio news commentator for the Sun Oil Co., and commentator for Fox Movietone News aroused the ire of residents of Port Hope, Ont., this week, when in a newsreel presentation of the radium industry he referred to the Eldorado Mine at Port Hope, as being up in the "wilderness of the Arctic on the shores of Great Bear Lake". "Holy smoke! Where is Port Hope?" was Mr. Thomas' query when the error was brought to his attention.

For the first time in the history of Toronto a motion picture is to have its local preview with all seats reserved. The picture is Gabriel Pascal's production of Bernard Shaws "Pygmalion", starring Leslie Howard and Wendy Hiller. It will have its Toronto premiere at Loew's Theatre, February 15 at the evening performance, at which time all seats will be reserved, although there will be no change from the regular evening admission price.

Les Campbell, manager of the Empress Theatre, Kelowna, B.C., is reported as having given a particularly interesting address reviewing the Motion Picture Industry from its infancy to the present day, at the Kelowna Rotary Club recently.

F. M. Kimbark, Vice-President of Marcus Loew's Theatres of Toronto, which own and operate Loew's, Toronto, and lease the Uptown, Toronto, to F.P.C.C., announced last week that the company intends to pay off preferred stock dividend arrears of $38.50 within three years. It is intended to pay $19.25 in March, after which the company will pay an extra quarterly dividend on account of arrears with the regular quarterly payments of $1.75 per share on the 7 per cent preferred stock of $100 par value.

Raymond Allen of the Hollywood, Toronto, and Premier Operating Corp. informs us that his company will not only rebuild the Port Colborne theatre which burned down last fall, but will also remodel and re-open the town's other theatre.

"Jay L."

"Idiot's Delight" Big $19,500, Albee, Cincinnati. Opens Soon Loew's, Toronto

Old Digest Files Show History Does Repeat Itself

THE exhibitors of the ITA have been looking for suitable quarters in which to hold their meetings. A Committee consisting of Mr. Tom Walton of the new Rio Theatre, Toronto; Mr. Firestone, Esquire Theatre; and Mr. Solway, Bloordale, Avenue and Paramount Theatres, Toronto, was appointed to find suitable meeting quarters, it being decided that the offices of the Taylor Co-operative group were no longer suitable.

The moving out of the ITA from Co-operative developed as a result of the Round Table Group of exhibitors, the latter who have been meeting for some weeks at various offices given to these exhibitors for this purpose.

Some of the exhibitors who came to the Round Table discussions were not in the ITA association. The idea of such an exhibitors' forum is a good idea and patterns itself after the ideas as embodied in the American Round Table discussions.

It is however, most likely to be killed by those influences which seek to have the ITA group under control of the Co-operative Interests.

The Committee appointed for the purpose of securing suitable quarters in which to meet, found such quarters in the film building at Toronto, but instead of the ITA approving and voting on the finding of the Committee appointed, a motion was passed that the Board of the ITA go out to find quarters, and to examine the quarters as approved by the appointed Committee.

It's the same old "run-around". The same kind of a "stall" as Mr. Nathanson gave Mr. Freedman when the latter came back with the glad tidings that he had consorted with Mr. Nathanson at Florida last winter and now everything would be hunky-dorry in regard to Conciliation and Protection. History Does Repeat Itself! In the minutes of December 4th, of 1924, of the M.P.T.O. of Ontario, we read, "Mr. J. C. Brady is advised to write to Mr. Denis and Mr. West of Montreal in reply to a letter received from them in which Mr. Sparrow (the deposed President of M.P.T.O.A.), and Mr. Gould, the deposed Secretary, (both demoted officers on which the members "had the goods" of a sell-out to Mr. Nathanson), in regard to a demand made by these "kicked-out" officers for expenses and services to the M.P.T.O.A."

THE minutes of the Motion Picture Theatres Owners of Ontario reveal that the control of the playdates in 1924-25 forced the exhibitors into forming a co-operative group for buying-power; and this idea developed into an Exhibitors' Exchange.

In turning to the minutes of December 9th, 1924, at the King Edward Hotel, we find it recorded that Mr. John Brady was in the chair. "Montreal convention of the M.P.T.O. under discussion. Moved by Mr. Boyd, seconded by Alderman Summerville, that Ontario be represented at the Montreal Convention of the M.P.T.O.

"Motion by Sam Lent, seconded by Mr. Boyd, that the expenses of delegates to the convention be paid by individual delegates save in the case of the secretary, whose expenses shall be paid by the organization. Carried.

(Ray Lewis, secretary, she paid her own expenses, with thanks.)

"Moved that a letter of thanks be written to Frank Myers of Vitagraph in regard to his disposition on the question of paper as handled by the poster exchange formed by the exhibitors. Paper to be sold by Vitagraph at their usual prices.

Lovely Norma Shearer, the First Lady of the Screen, now appearing with Clark Gable in Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer's "Idiot's Delight".

"Motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Roy O'Connor, that the question of forming a Co-operative booking association by exhibitors be taken up at the next meeting. Carried."

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting, Tuesday, December 23rd. Mr. Brady in the chair.

"A presentation was made to the secretary of a very handsome toilette case with fittings. The presentation was made by Mr. Harry Alexander on behalf of the Toronto members of the M.P.T.O. (We note that the secretary has written in her minutes, 'Don't let it happen again,' and further remarks written by her are, 'This is the first secret M.P.T.O. members have ever kept.' Neither The Digest nor Miss Lewis had heard even the faintest rumour of the proposed presentation.)

"A proposition of an Exhibitors' Independent Exchange was proposed by Mr. O. R. Hanson. Fifty thousand dollars was the sum required, he said, for initial incorporation. Adam Baillie pledged $5,000; Ald. Summerville $5,000; H. Rottenberg $5,000; Mr. Joy $1,000, other exhibitors pledged their financial support and consideration.

"Mr. J. C. Brady brought the report from the Montreal convention, and also an idea for a proposed combined booking by exhibitors regarding rental of pictures. Also an expression of good-will and co-operation from exhibitors of Quebec to exhibitors of Ontario division.

"Moved by Ald. Summerville, seconded by Mr. M. Gebirtig, that a vote of thanks and confidence be tendered to Mr. Brady in consideration of the tact and good judgment which he displayed re Montreal visit.

"Motion by Ald. Summerville, seconded by J. Boyd, that a committee wait upon Dr. Hastings' department in connection with "Stink Bomb" episodes. Carried. Committee appointed as follows: Ald. Summerville, M. Gebirtig, Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Brady. Meeting adjourned. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Next meeting Tuesday, January 13th, 1925."

M-G-M Shelves Hedy Lamarr - Spencer Tracy Co-Starrer, "I Take This Woman", Due to Script Trouble, After 76 Days Shooting

Fairweather in the Maritimes

By ALICE T. FAIRWEATHER

MRS. A. C. D. WILSON, a former member of the N.B. Board of Censors and Local and Provincial Convener of Films and Printed Matter for the Council of Women, gave an excellent report on her Committee at the annual meeting of the Local Council held at Saint John on January 20th. Mrs. Wilson spoke of the improvement in motion pictures, the need of more features suitable for children, but denounced magazines which are trashy and books which have a demoralizing effect.

SAINT JOHN, N.B.

FLU has been very prevalent in Saint John and many of the Exchanges have suffered. Mr. A. E. Smith, Regal Films Limited, was in his home for a number of days; Mr. P. J. Hogan, Paramount Film Service, spent a few days at home, as did Mr. E. A. Whelpley, RKO Distributing Corporation Ltd., and Charles Chaplin, United Artists Corporation. Among others suffering from this epidemic were Miss Clara Robinson of Vitagraph Limited, Miss Rose Bloom and Miss Kashetsky of Maritime Film Company. To all of these, the Sick Fund of the Maritime Film Board of Trade sent some gift to show our regret at their illness, and our good wishes for a speedy return to good health.

Mr. Wolfe Cohen, General Manager of Vitagraph Limited of Toronto, was a recent visitor at Saint John, N.B.

Mr. Ernest A. Whelpley, local Manager of the RKO Distributing Corporation Exchange at Saint John, N.B., attended a regional meeting of the RKO managers at Montreal recently.

SYDNEY, N.S.

THE new theatre, The Vogue, being built for Mr. D. P. MacDonald, manager of the Capitol Theatre at Sydney, is nearing completion and is expected to open the latter part of February. The first feature to be used will be M-G-M's "Sweethearts".

SAINT JOHN, N.B.

MEMBERS of the Film Community were shocked and grieved to learn of the death of Miss Gertrude Lilian Daley who was associated with Eastern Films. This death was very sudden, the young lady, a very popular member of her set, only taking ill on Wednesday evening, and passing away in the General Hospital on Sunday.

PICTOU, N.S.

THE Capitol Theatre, C. H. Weisner, manager, which was re-decorated last season and greatly improved, has signed for the M-G-M program for the coming year.

SAINT JOHN, N.B.

MR. FRED. G. SPENCER, of F. G. Spencer Company, recently paid a visit to his Nova Scotia theatres spending some time at Amherst, Truro, Halifax and the various theatres in the Annapolis Valley, preparatory to leaving for his winter season in the Southern States. Mr. Arthur Fielding, General Manager of the F. G. Spencer Company also visited the newly acquired Capitol Theatre at Digby, N.S., and other theatres in the Annapolis Valley.

STELLARTON, N.S.

MAYOR FRANK SOBIE, of the Jubilee Theatre, Stellarton, N.S., was a member of a delegation which went to Ottawa to try and have some reforms passed in the interests of the coal miners of Nova Scotia. Also in the delegation was A. J. Mason of the Capitol Theatre, Springhill, N.S., who has been prominent in working for assistance to the Coal Industry of Nova Scotia.

SAINT JOHN, N.B.

A SEVERE fire recently burned to the ground two stores almost adjourning the Strand Theatre during the evening performance. There was no panic and the audience, on streaming out of the theatre, were greatly surprised at what had been taking place during the performance.

NEW GLASGOW, N.S.

THE Roseland Theatre, with its popular manager, N. W. Mason, will re-open about February 27th, it is understood, with M-G-M's "Sweethearts". This theatre has been undergoing extensive repairs, including new seats and all modern improvements.

SAINT JOHN, N.B.

MESSRS. N. Vassis and Alex Demerson have sold their interest in the Paradise restaurant, Charlotte St., and henceforth will devote their time to their theatres, The Empire, Saint John, and the Empire, Halifax, N.S.

YARMOUTH, N.S.

MR. and Mrs. S. E. O'Brien, of Yarmouth, are shortly leaving for California to spend the winter in that southern climate. Mr. O'Brien has been connected with the motion picture theatres in Yarmouth for a number of years under the name of the Yarmouth Theatres Company.

Mr. Gordon Borneman — thank you for your subscription. Muskoka Theatre, Gravenhurst, Ont.

We Object!

When an editor who has but recently come to Canada presents an editorial, "A Royal Welcome", in a paper financed by Canadians living under the protection of the British Flag and British Institutions, in which editorial she and the backers of this paper show a lack of respect to Their Majesties, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, we object!

The impertinence of this editor and this so-called Independent paper is found in the opening sentence of an editorial which reads, "We are not at present headed, in spite of our heading, to speak of the impending visit of Their Majesties King George and his royal spouse to these shores, but rather are we referring to the unrolling of the red carpet on the gangplank, etc., etc."

Canadians have been taught to refer to Their Majesties with dignity and respect. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth is not to be referred to as "his royal spouse". Her Majesty is the Queen of England. Such a familiarity of expression as adopted by the editor to whom we refer, is another example of how this fledgeling endeavors to quill her way to heights, but alas, the quill ever reveals that despite the aid of printer's ink it is still the feather of a goose!

A letter to Ottawa would give the editor of "A Royal Welcome" proper information on how to refer to Their Majesties in print; it may also help out for a lack of good breeding and good taste in the selection of subject material with which one may have the inspiration to associate the names of Their Majesties!

—Editor.

STOKOWSKI SIGNS DISNEY CONTRACT

Hollywood, Calif. — Leopold Stokowski, famed conductor of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, was signed today by Walt Disney to an eighteen month contract, the longest contract ever drawn up for this type of engagement. Stokowski will direct and record music for Disney's full length concert feature.

Deems Taylor will act as technical advisor as well as narrator.

THE SUCCESS
of your
THEATRE
depends upon
GOOD EQUIPMENT

consult
GENERAL
THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY Ltd.
104 BOND STREET TORONTO • 336 MAYOR STREET MONTREAL

Washington Film Digest

By ROBERT LANSING

CANADA RANKS NINTH AMONG IMPORTERS OF AMERICAN FILM FOR 1938

Washington, D.C., Feb. 1—(CPS)

CANADA was the ninth largest importer of American motion pictures during 1938, it was reported here this week by Nathan D. Golden, Chief of the Motion Picture Division, Department of Commerce.

Canadian imports of American films dropped in footage for 1938, compared to 1937, but increased in value, it was reported. During 1938, Mr. Golden stated, Canada imported 5,898,139 feet of American films, which were worth $223,716. The 1937 figures show imports of 6,110,452 feet with a reported value of $209,357.

The report for the full twelve months of 1938 show a 13,000,000 feet decrease in positive and negative sound and silent films over those exported in 1937.

During the year 1938 a total of 202,526,821 feet with a declared value of $4,519,594 were exported to all foreign markets as compared with 215,721,956 feet with a value of $4,797,641 for 1937. This is a decrease of 6.1 percent during 1938 of all films exported.

The United Kingdom replaced Argentina as the largest consumer of American motion pictures, it was reported. During 1938, there were exported to the United Kingdom 14,359,042 feet of American films with a value of $380,040 as compared with 15,432,385 feet valued at $396,627 during 1937.

Close behind the United Kingdom comes Argentina to which there were exported 14,230,004 feet of American pictures with a declared value of $241,042 during 1938 as against 17,213,406 feet with a value of $337,638 in 1937.

Brazil maintains its position as the U.S. third largest market in point of footage for 1938. During the year, 13,042,075 feet of American film valued at $255,385 were exported to Brazil as compared with 12,856,031 feet of U.S. films valued at $258,336 for 1937. Mexico is in fourth position supplanting the British West Indies. To Mexico U.S. film makers sent 9,045,028 feet of films with a value of $264,569, as contrasted with 8,594,637 feet valued at $271,331 in 1937. British West Indies took fifth place with 7,581,128 feet of American films valued at $17,388, as against 10,169,863 with a value of $24,762 in 1937.

The next largest five importers of American films were in order: France, 6,876,093 feet with a value of $174,632 — Panama, 6,813,912 feet valued at $92,393 — South Africa, 6,040,263 feet, valued at $120,799 — Canada in ninth place and Cuba with 5,300,245 feet valued at $95,934 in tenth position.

Mr. Golden based his rankings on the amount of footage exported and not on value. From the standpoint of value Canada ranked fifth among all importers.

ALLIED HOLD CONFAB

A MEETING of the utmost importance to film exhibitors held here was the annual meeting of the Allied States Association of Motion Picture Exhibitors. Besides electing officers and going through other routine matters, Allied re-affirmed its opposition to block-booking, and went on record in favor of continued legislative and court action to accomplish its purposes.

Replacing Nathan Yamins as President of the exhibitors organization is Col. H. A. Cole of Dallas, Texas, who stated he fully approves the course of action thus far taken by Allied, and will continue that policy. Other officers named at the meeting were Abram F. Myers, re-elected Chairman of the Board and General Counsel; C. H. Clive of Washington, Secretary; Pete J. Wood of Columbus, Ohio, Recording Secretary, and H. A. Blum of Baltimore, Maryland, elected Treasurer.

The important news of the meeting came from the Negotiating Committee, which is handling the negotiations on Allied's behalf with the distributors on a revised trade practice program.

The proposed draft as offered by the distributors does not meet with the approval of Allied. That was the gist of the Negotiating Committee's report to the Board of Directors, which immediately approved the report.

"The draft in its present form does not in the opinion of your Committee, meet the requirement of the resolution adopted at Chicago that it obtain from the distributors their complete plan including the details of arbitration. The draft being incomplete in the particulars above mentioned, the Committee does not feel that it can recommend that it be either accepted or rejected," the Committee reported.

The Board of Directors authorized the Committee to continue its efforts to secure a draft for the consideration of the Board which will meet with the Board's requirement, set forth in its resolution dated November 3rd, that it must have a complete and definite plan, including the details of arbitration, before it can act.

That the majors and distributors will not be able to temper Allied's determination to force legislative and court action was seen in the resolution declaring that the distributors proposals fall "far short of curing the industry evils of which Allied and the independent exhibitors have complained for years; and the Board therefore, reiterates the stand taken in its former resolution that nothing in any plan which may be reported shall in any way hinder or preclude Allied States Association from seeking a larger measure of relief than that offered by the distributors by legislation, litigation, or otherwise; and, further that the Allied campaign of legislation and litigation be prosecuted unceasingly and with vigor."

That Allied means business on this last statement of policy was demonstrated here as they prepared to defend the North Divorcement Law which is now before the Supreme Court.

Paramount Pictures, which is appealing to the Supreme Court has already branded the law "unconstitutional", and asked the Court to rule it invalid. Allied, however, is prepared to battle that contention to the limit for it well knows that the decision of the Court in this case will presage either victory or defeat in other State Legislatures where similar measures are contemplated.

Mr. J. A. McCulloch — thank you for your subscription. Royal George Theatre, Toronto, Ont.

POSITION WANTED

Experienced projectionist — non-union — wishes position — willing to leave city. Available immediately.

Apply BOX 45 — DIGEST

Theatre Equipment and **COMPLETE SUPPLIES**

Projectors and Parts.
Motor Generators.
Sound Screens.
Lenses, Carbons, etc.

Coleman Electric Co.
258 Victoria St.
TORONTO, ONT.

EVERYTHING FOR THE THEATRE FROM SHEET TO STREET

Shooting the Stars

MYRNA LOY and ROBERT TAYLOR began their first picture together this week when cameras at M-G-M began turning on "Lucky Night", in which they co-star under the able direction of NORMAN TAUROG . . . HENRY FONDA has been signed by 20th CENTURY-FOX to star in two pictures a year for that studio; the two films Fonda will make for Fox this year will be in addition to his starring role in "YOUNG MR. LINCOLN", the latter which will be directed by JOHN FORD . . . JOHNNY KEYES, New York's former "Mayor of Chinatown", has been signed for a supporting role in HAL ROACH'S "CAPTAIN FURY", starring BRIAN AHERNE, JUNE LANG and VICTOR McLAGLEN; Roach is handling the direction himself, and release will be through UNITED ARTISTS . . PANDRO S. BERMAN, RKO RADIO vice-president in charge of production, made good use of his fountain pen this week, signing two stars to RKO contracts, as well as a director and a scenarist; VICTOR McLAGLEN was signed to star in a new feature, and JOE PENNER was signed to an exclusive RKO contract; in addition director LEIGH JASON and writer MICHAEL KANIN were given new term contracts . . . WARNER BROS. have engaged SPENCER CHARTERS and ROBERT STRANGE for important roles in their forthcoming "HELL'S KITCHEN"; Stanley Fields, the "Dead End" Kids, Margaret Lindsay, Ronald Reagan and Grant Mitchell head the cast . . . DOLORES COSTELLO and MICHAEL WHALEN will play the leading roles in a new COLUMBIA picture entitled "OUTSIDE THESE WALLS" . . . JOHNNY WEISMULLER, playing Tarzan in "TARZAN IN EXILE" at M-G-M, becomes a veritable chatterbox, speaking 118 one-syllable English words; MAUREEN O'SULLIVAN again plays the feminine lead . . . JOSEPH SCHILDKRAUT has been engaged to play the role of "Colbert" in the EDWARD SMALL-U.A. production, "THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK" . . . "THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME" has been bought by RKO RADIO Pictures; plans call for the film to be the most impressive production on the 1939-40 schedule . . . Bette Davis and MIRIAM HOPKINS will be the stars, and EDMUND GOULDING the director, when WARNER BROS. go into production with their screen version of Zoe Akins' Pulitzer Prize play, "THE OLD MAID" . . . RUDY VALLEE was signed this week by DARRYL F. ZANUCK to play the leading role opposite SONJA HENIE in the new 20th CENTURY-FOX film, "WHEN WINTER COMES", with music by IRVING BERLIN . . . ANN SHOEMAKER and AL BRIDGE were signed by COLUMBIA this week for the CHARLES BICKFORD - JEAN PARKER picture, "ROMANCE OF THE REDWOODS", which CHARLES VIDOR is directing.

Bobby Breen, star of the RKO Radio release, "Fisherman's Wharf", with Leo Carrillo and Henry Armetta.

Trans - Canada Showings

TORONTO

IMPERIAL
"Zaza" (Paramount), starring Claudette Colbert and Herbert Marshall, and "Off the Record" (Warners), starring Joan Blondell and Pat O'Brien.

LOEW'S
"Duke of West Point" (Edward Small-U.A.), starring Louis Hayward, and "Dramatic School" (M-G-M), starring Luise Rainer and Paulette Goddard.

SHEA'S
"Going Places" (Warners), starring Dick Powell and Anita Louise. Also stage show.

UPTOWN
"The Dawn Patrol" (Warners), starring Errol Flynn.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
"There's That Woman Again" (Columbia), starring Melvyn Douglas and Virginia Bruce, and "Smashing the Spy Ring" (Columbia), with Ralph Bellamy.

LOEW'S
"The Mad Miss Manton" (RKO Radio), starring Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda. Also stage show.

ORPHEUM
"Topper Takes a Trip" (Hal Roach-U.A.), starring Constance Bennett and Roland Young.

PALACE
"The Citadel" (M-G-M), starring Robert Donat and Rosalind Russell.

PRINCESS
"Young Dr. Kildare" (M-G-M), starring Lew Ayres and Lionel Barrymore, and "Swing, Sister, Swing" (Universal), with Ken Murray.

SAINT JOHN

EMPIRE
"Between Two Women" (M-G-M), starring Franchot Tone, Maureen O'Sullivan and Virginia Bruce, and "He Couldn't Say No" (Warners), with Frank McHugh.

MAYFAIR
"You Can't Take It With You" (Columbia), starring Jean Arthur, James Stewart, Lionel Barrymore and Edward Arnold.

REGENT
"Letter of Introduction" (Universal), starring Adolphe Menjou, Andrea Leeds, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, and "Hollywood Stadium Mystery" (Republic), with Neil Hamilton.

STRAND
"What Price Innocence?" (Columbia), with Jean Parker, and "The Missing Guest" (Universal), with Paul Kelly.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"Kentucky" (20th Century-Fox), starring Loretta Young and Richard Greene.

GARRICK
6th week. "You Can't Take It With You" (Columbia), starring Jean Arthur, James Stewart, Lionel Barrymore and Edward Arnold.

GAIETY
"Boys Town" (M-G-M), starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney.

METROPOLITAN
"The Beachcomber" (Paramount), starring Charles Laughton and Elsa Lanchester.

OSBORNE
"Strange Boarders" (Britisr), starring Tom Walls, and "The Lilac Domino" (British), with Michael Bartlett and June Knight.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"Young Dr. Kildare" (M-G-M), starring Lew Ayres and Lionel Barrymore, and "Listen, Darling" (M-G-M), starring Judy Garland and Freddie Bartholomew.

ISIS
"Men With Wings" (Paramount), starring Fred MacMurray and Ray Milland.

PALACE
"The Beachcomber" (Paramount), starring Charles Laughton and Elsa Lanchester.

STRAND
"Boys Town" (M-G-M), starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney, and "Shine on Harvest Moon" (Republic), with Roy Rogers.

VARIETY
"Letter of Introduction" (Universal), starring Adolphe Menjou, Andrea Leeds, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, and "Smashing the Rackets" (RKO Radio), starring Chester Morris.

VANCOUVER

BEACON
"Disbarred" (Paramount), with Otto Kruger, and "Flight to Fame" (Columbia), with Charles Farrell. Also stage show.

DUNBAR
"Having Wonderful Time" (RKO Radio), starring Ginger Rogers and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and "Partners in Crime" (Paramount), with Lynne Overman.

ORPHEUM
"The Lady Vanishes" (G-B), starring Paul Lukas and Dame May Whitty, and "Service de Luxe" (Universal), starring Constance Bennett.

PLAZA
3rd week. "The Young In Heart" (Selznick-U.A.), starring Janet Gaynor, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Paulette Goddard.

STRAND
"The Great Man Votes" (RKO Radio), starring John Barrymore.

HAIL, Topper!

HAIL, Box-Office!

PHILADELPHIA...
ALDINE... After biggest opening week since August, picture is now in its third smash week.

BINGHAMTON...
STRAND... John Nolan of the Comerford Circuit, reports one of outstanding week's grosses of entire season.

HARTFORD...
STRAND... Business up 158 percent as box-office sells against house packed to capacity.

NEW HAVEN...
ROGER SHERMAN... Clicks forcefully with take that is 153% of average business.

ALBANY...
STRAND... Stampede of patrons braves year's heaviest blizzard in all-day lines at box-office.

MILWAUKEE...
WARNER... Sensational opening as picture grosses $5,500 in firs two days.

MEMPHIS...
LOEW'S STATE... First three days' receipts skyrocket to 148% of average business.

NEW YORK...
RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL... Hits high weekly gross of $105,000.

HAL ROACH presents

TOPPER TAKES A TRIP

STARRING

Constance BENNETT · Roland YOUNG

BILLIE BURKE · ALAN MOWBRAY
VERREE TEASDALE · FRANKLIN PANGBORN
ALEXANDER D'ARCY · MR. ATLAS ("The Thin Man" Dog)

Directed by NORMAN Z. McLEOD

Screen Play by Jack Jevne, Eddie Moran and Corey Ford. From the Novel by Thorne Smith. Milton H. Bren, Executive Producer.